



MEDIA RELEASE

PAIHIA DEFEND FIREFIGHTER SKY TOWER CHALLENGE TROPHY

Saturday 23 May – Paihia’s Volunteer Fire Brigade seized the fundraising trophy for the fourth consecutive year raising \$15,670 and contributing to the record \$140,000 raised for the Leukaemia & Blood Foundation (LBF).

Paihia participated in the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge held at SKYCITY. They were closely followed by Auckland Airport Rescue Fire who raised \$11,980 and Waipawa Fire Brigade who raised \$8,793 – but once again could not be caught.

The event brings a small community together in lots of ways. “We’re really privileged to be part of the event and to lead the fundraising for four years in a row,” said Paihia firefighter Hughie Blues. “It’s good to see all the other brigades participate. There are a lot of people who know others affected by blood disorders; it’s what keeps us going.”

The 422 people who competed - included 365 New Zealand firefighters and firefighters from Australia and the U.S. The 80 brigades raced up 51 flights - or 1,103 Sky Tower steps - wearing full firefighting kit and breathing apparatus weighing up to 25kg.

The award for individual fundraiser went to firefighters Andrew Gould of Plimmerton who raised \$1,900 followed by Kawakawa’s Alistair Leitch who raised \$1,846. Stephen Jones a General Manager at Air New Zealand brought in a whopping \$7,530 for the cause.

The winner for the fastest man went to Doug Kinsella, from South Auckland who completed the race in an impressive 9 minutes 40 seconds. The fastest female was, for the second year in a row, Maree Ryan from Hutt City who finished in 14 minutes 11 seconds.

Firefighters gained sponsorship for their efforts from their communities, friends and families. The event was sponsored by SKYCITY and Auckland Airport - with all the funds raised going to the Leukaemia & Blood Foundation. The \$140,000 raised smashed last year’s total of \$94,000.

Pru Etcheverry, Executive Director of the Leukaemia & Blood Foundation, says, “We are very humbled by the firefighters, our community heroes, with daily acts of bravery and kindness, and on top of all, that they commit to this event year after year to fundraise and support us.



In association with
Auckland Airport



"We are delighted to be part of this event over the last six years and to see this build in both number of participants and funds raised. I am truly honoured to be associated with these incredible people."

With a vision to cure, mission to care, the LBF supports patients and families living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood conditions. With six children and adults diagnosed each day, that support has never been more vital. "The \$140,000 raised from this fantastic event is invaluable," said Etcheverry.

Auckland Airport's CEO, Simon Moutter, who was aiming to finish in 20 minutes, finished in 15.58 said, "I have a new admiration for our firefighters and the day to day physical challenge of their job, but it is nothing compared to what people suffering with leukaemia have to endure."

Ejaaz Dean, SKYCITY Auckland's Executive Manager Table Games said: "We were delighted to host another successful event in the Sky Tower and congratulate everyone who completed the climb and raised money for such a worthy cause."

The event was sponsored by SKYCITY and Auckland Airport and supported by New Zealand Fire Service, Scott Health & Safety, High Pressure Equipment, Coca-Cola, MoreFM and St. John Ambulance.

WINNING RESULTS

Fastest Team Time

1. South Auckland
2. Auckland Airport Rescue Fire
3. Paihia

Relay

1. South Auckland
2. Auckland Airport Rescue Fire
3. Linton Army

Individual Female – Donned (in full firefighter gear but not breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Lisa McCallum, Bethells Valley
2. Tara Remington, Awhitu Rural
3. Nicola Evans, Stratford

Individual Male - Donned (in full firefighter gear but not breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Peter Cranwell, Auckland City
2. Hamish Fraser, Rangiora
3. John Ashton, Paihia

18-39 Male - Donned and Started (in full firefighter gear breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Doug Kinsella, South Auckland
2. Paul Gerritsen, Remuera
3. Dan Van Hoppe, South Auckland

18-39 Female Donned and Started (in full firefighter gear breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Maree Ryan, Hutt City
2. Jodie Shelman, USA
3. Georgina Shanks, Linton Army

40-54 Male Donned and Started (in full firefighter gear breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Steven Callaghan, East Coast Bays
2. Rex Wilson, Paihia
3. Stuart Graham, Auckland Airport Fire Rescue



In association with
Auckland Airport

40+ Female Donned and Started (in full firefighter gear breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Michelle Noakes, East Coast Bays
2. Isabelle Lardeux-Gilloux, Greenhithe
3. Fiona Campbell, Waipu

50+ Male Donned and Started (in full firefighter gear breathing through breathing apparatus)

1. Richard Noakes, East Coast Bays
2. Henry Tainsh, Cooks Beach
3. Max Day, Whitianga

Top Fundraisers - Brigades

1. Paihia
2. Auckland Airport Fire Rescue
3. Waipawa Fire Brigade

Top Fundraisers - Individual Firefighters

1. Andrew Gould, Plimmerton
2. Alistair Leitch, Kawakawa



In association with
Auckland Airport

The Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge numbers:

- **6** children and adults in New Zealand everyday are diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood condition.
- More than **500** contacts with patients and general enquiries every month is managed by the LBF Patient Support Services team.
- **10,000** people are living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood condition in New Zealand.
- Over **\$1,000** each day is the cost of providing LBF's Support Services.
- **51** flights of stairs in the Firefighters Sky Tower Challenge.
- **1,103** individual steps.
- **\$140,000** raised for LBF in the 2009 Firefighters Sky Tower Challenge.
- Over **80** brigades.
- **365** firefighters representing fire brigades from around New Zealand competed in the 2009 Challenge.
- At **328** metres the Sky Tower is the tallest building in the southern hemisphere.

MORE INFORMATION:

Leukaemia & Blood Foundation

The LBF is the only organisation in New Zealand dedicated to supporting patients and their families living with leukaemia, myeloma, lymphoma and related blood conditions.

Every day 6 children and adults in New Zealand are diagnosed with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma or a related blood condition, the equivalent of around 2,200 New Zealanders a year.

The funds raised go towards the LBF's Support Services Programme to provide core services – patient support, information & education, awareness, advocacy and research.

-ENDS-

The following Fire Brigades and Volunteer Fire Brigades participated in the 2009 Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge:

Brigade	Maungaturoto Volunteer Fire Brigade
	Mercer Volunteer Fire Brigade
Alexandra Volunteer Fire Brigade	Morrinsville Volunteer Fire Brigade
Athenree Volunteer Fire Brigade	Mount Maunganui Station
Auckland Airport Rescue Fire	Muriwai Fire Brigade
Auckland region City Station	Napier Station Fire Brigade
Avondale Fire Brigade	New Plymouth West Volunteer Fire Brigade
Awhitu Rural Fire Brigade	Newmont Mines Rescue
Beachlands Volunteer Fire Brigade	Okaiawa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Bethells Valley Fire Brigade	Onerahi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Cambridge Volunteer Fire Brigade	Paihia Volunteer Fire Brigade
Christchurch City Station	Papakura Fire Brigade
Clevedon Volunteer Fire Brigade	Paraparaumu Fire Brigade
Cooks Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade	Patutahi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Cromwell Volunteer Fire Brigade	Plympton Volunteer Fire Brigade
Devonport Fire Brigade	Pukekohe Volunteer Fire Brigade
East Coast Bays Fire Brigade	Queenstown Volunteer Fire Brigade
Edgecumbe Volunteer Fire Brigade	Rangiora Volunteer Fire Brigade
Gis/Juken NZ Industrial	Remuera Fire Brigade
Gis/Kotemaori VRFF	RNZAF Whenuapai Fire Brigade
Gisborne Fire Brigade	Silverdale Fire Brigade
Greenhithe Volunteer Fire Brigade	South Auckland Fire Brigade
Hamilton Airport Rescue Fire	South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
Henderson Fire Brigade	St Heliers Station
Hikurangi Volunteer Fire Brigade	Stratford Volunteer Fire Brigade
Hutt City Fire Brigade	Tairua Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kaipoi Volunteer Fire Brigade	Tawa Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kaikohe Volunteer Fire Brigade	Te Atatu Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kamo Volunteer Fire Brigade	Te Awamutu Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kawakawa Volunteer Fire Brigade	Te Kuiti Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kawerau Fire Brigade	Thames Volunteer Fire Brigade
Kumeu Volunteer Fire Brigade	Tikokino Volunteer Fire Brigade
Linton Army Fire Brigade	Titirangi Fire Brigade
Lumsden Volunteer Fire Brigade	Tokomaru Volunteer Fire Brigade
Mangawhai Volunteer Fire Brigade	Turangi Volunteer Fire Brigade
Mangere Fire Brigade	USA Firefighter Team
Manly Volunteer Fire Brigade	Waiatarua Volunteer Fire Brigade
Manunui Volunteer Fire Brigade	Waihi Beach Volunteer Fire Brigade

Waipawa Volunteer Fire Brigade	Waitemata Fire Brigade
Waipu Volunteer Fire Brigade	Wellington Airport Fire Service
Waipukurau Volunteer Fire Brigade	Wellsford Volunteer Fire Brigade
Waitakere Rural Fire Brigade	Whitianga Volunteer Fire Brigade

For further information contact:

**Photographs are available on request*

Leola Abraham
Communications & Marketing Manager
Leukaemia & Blood Foundation
Phone: 09 638 3556
Mobile: 021 523 172

Connie Sprague
Media Relations Manager
SKYCITY Entertainment Group
Phone: 09 363 6409
Mobile: 021 515 638

Sarah Aldworth
Communications Manager
Auckland Airport
Phone: 09 256 8917
Mobile: 027 474 6483